

My final question is the bottom-line: has the Commission been effective in improving judicial behavior in New York State? Our report demonstrates that the Commission has contributed greatly to improving the standards of conduct of judges as evidenced by the declining number of sanctions for judicial misconduct. In 1979, this Commission's first full year, 58 judges were publicly disciplined. The number dropped to 50 in 1980, 32 in 1981, 24 in 1982, 20 in 1983, 24 in 1984, 18 in 1985 and only 16 in 1986.

The Committee for Modern Courts therefore concludes that the Commission on Judicial Conduct does a good and necessary job of investigating and disciplining judges. New Yorkers can be assured that a judge who disregards the ethical standards of his or her office will be held accountable.

At a time when the public is calling for higher ethical standards for public officials, the Committee for Modern Courts pledges to resist all efforts to weaken the Commission on Judicial Conduct either through legislative changes or by cutting its budget.

Thank you again for inviting us to testify in support of the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct, the premier independent judicial watchdog in the nation.

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Ex "A"